

Recycling Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2022, 8:00am – 9:30am

Virtual Minute Taker: Dailey Brannin

Members present: Leah Beckett, Dailey Brannin, Holden Cookson, Lee Elliott, Debby Galef, Martha Henry, Sakiko Isomichi, Susy Jones, Debby Knight, Scott MacGrath, Audrey Ng, Laura Nichols, Richard Nurse, Diane Roseman, Meera Singh, Quinten Steenhuis

Members absent: Janet Mosley, Mary Verhage

Staff Present: Mike Orr

Public present: David Demme, Maria Hottelet, John Krolewski, Elka Kuhlman, Emily Lee, Liz McNerney, Dawn Quirk, Helen Snively, Amy Waltz, Stephanie Wasiuk

1. Housekeeping, 8:00am

- November Minutes were approved
- Pushed sub-committee meetings to earlier in RAC meeting to accommodate people needing to leave early

2. City Updates

- Tonnage—food waste and yard waste increase this fall
 - Food waste compost data:

Year	Average Daily Tons
November 2018	7.58
November 2019	7.61
November 2021	7.16
November 2022	8.51

- UTEC tour
 - RAC members attended - Debby Galef, Helen Snively, Dailey Brannin
 - Through their mattress recycling, woodworking, and other programs, UTEC provides at-risk area youth with employment, training, education, etc. Huge social component to their work.
 - The tour was in their brand-new facility that's not operational yet, so there may be another tour once it's up and running

- Trash audit data: what is in Cambridge's trash carts?

	2016	2019	2022
Recyclables	16.7%	13.2%	13.0%
Organics (food waste + compostable fibers)	41.5%	26.4%	29.0%
Textiles	4.2%	3.4%	4.5%

Metal & e-waste	2.8%	1.4%	5.3%
Trash	34.8%	55.6%	48.2%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

- - Discussion
 - Still lots of work to do with getting recyclables and organics out of our trash
 - Recycling has approx 5% contamination
 - Takeaways from audit related to the new trash carts: with the rollout, composting and more secure, rodent-proof green bins were really emphasized. 4,000 kitchen bins have been given out so far this year.
 - This audit was right before the textile ban went into effect – we'll see how textiles have changed in the next audit.

3. Sub-committee breakouts

- **Textile Subcommittee:**

- Get update on Flyer: and has there been any feedback?
- Obtain updated Helpsy bin data/metrics, to be able to market the monetary value of hosting a bin to potential new hosts.
- Focus on understanding why the percent of textiles in our trash went up since the audit
- Get RAC involved with Buy Nothing swap events; Helen to communicate to RAC before next event.
- Have volunteers involved for outreach and cleanup
- What other communities, besides schools, can we conduct outreach to on textiles?
- Expand Info board at the library to include textiles
- Create revised flyer that is targeted towards a general audience, not specific to schools.
- What other high-traffic areas can we utilize, e.g., T/train stations?
- Develop "sandwich board" message

- **Food Waste:**

- We'll compile our final recs by end of term, including:
 - Recommend a structure for collecting input from small biz: i.e. survey questions, workshop ideas, review draft resource (Martha)
 - Compile list of partners and resources: ReFED (Holden)
 - New (visible) Compost Drop Off location (Dailey)

- **Outreach:** reflected on the audit result and talked about doing outreach at libraries on a regular basis, making informative magnets, and collaborating with the high school's graphic arts class. It would be useful to get more information about the audit result to target an audience or item. Do outreach at City Hall Annex when people come to pick up parking stickers/permits. Monday evenings?

4. End of Term debrief

See slides at end of document

- Positive comments on much of DPW's work, including: working throughout pandemic, the switch to the new hauler, new cart rollout, extended yard waste pickup schedule
- New ideas for next RAC session:
 - A need for more opportunities for recycling hard-to-recycle materials like e-waste, metal, etc.
 - A mobile, monthly e-waste pickup around the city
 - Possibly placing more collection bins around the city for plastic bags, metal, etc., although those require oversight and active management
 - Supermarkets can also be promoted as plastic bag recycling option, which takes pressure off of DPW's capacity to collect them
 - Hardware and/or electronic stores as possible options for drop-off bins
 - A program like Terracycle that recycles multilayer materials
 - More overt outreach and promotion of our programs is needed; more social media presence would be helpful and appropriate
 - Comments from Mike:
 - demand for space is a big issue in the city and only getting worse. DPW is looking at how can they continue their programs in the most space-efficient way possible, so mobile collection for e-waste/other materials may be good to pursue!
 - This year is unique in that they won't have a new program to launch, but will be focusing on refining/expanding existing programs

5. Closing, 9:20am

- No further public comment
- Action Plan/Decisions
 - Subcommittees to gather any deliverables, summaries, and/or recommendations
- New applicants should apply for RAC by December 19. For those wishing to continue serving on the RAC, email Mike and let him know - if you haven't already applied.
- Announcements
 - Next Buy Nothing swap event will probably be in March. They're a great opportunity for outreach.
 - Possible winter social in February when new RAC has been formed.

Chat:

From richard to Everyone 08:07 AM

Please excuse y late entry

From Liz McNerney to Everyone 08:11 AM

UTEC stands for???

From Me to Everyone 08:11 AM

United Teen Equality Center

From Susy Jones to Everyone 08:11 AM

UTEC, a Lowell-based youth services organization picks up, deconstructs and recycles mattresses from across northern New England.

From Holden (he/him) to Everyone 08:27 AM

<https://agricycleenergy.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/MarketingTeam/Ejs-G5siUINNgwYbFC2BUhEBjcr9B7r-FNAUU7Ld5fpf1A?e=C6si53>

From Susy Jones to Everyone 08:39 AM

<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/food-recovery-hierarchy>

<https://refed.org/>

From Holden (he/him) to Everyone 08:43 AM

<https://agricycleenergy.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/MarketingTeam/ERSyPpqg2rhKlqj-xzyndbABsv4yHN4ORo8-Eg2UE-XqGA?e=MkuOcg>

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Environmental Protection Agency

Voice: (617) 918-1795

Sustainable Material Management: <https://www.epa.gov/smm>

Sustainable Food Management: <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food>

From Susy Jones to Everyone 08:46 AM

Mike - are we good to wrap up subcommittees?

From Holden (he/him) to Everyone 08:47 AM

For folks working on school stuffs:

https://agricycleenergy.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/MarketingTeam/EQP8k_Bmv19JpOXgd2ArKMwBNOJwBoFr56KjcVKy5QGZsQ?e=d7dAZ4

From Sakiko Isomichi to Everyone 08:49 AM

Great to see you, Holden!

From Holden (he/him) to Everyone 08:50 AM

Likewise! My life's been crazy!! I got married, promoted at ACE, and been doing tons of funding stuff with ATG. Happy I could make it.

(and turned 30 woo!)

From Deborah Galef to Everyone 08:51 AM

Congratulations!

To Holden.

From Susy Jones to Everyone 08:51 AM

Food Waste Subcommittee update: We'll compile our final recs by end of term, including: Recommend a structure for collecting input from small biz: i.e. survey questions, workshop ideas, review draft resource (Martha) Compile list of partners and resources: Refed (Holden)

New (visible) Compost Drop Off location (Dailey)

From Sakiko Isomichi to Everyone 08:51 AM

Congrats!

From Maria Hottelet to Everyone 08:52 AM

Holden. Thank you for sharing the sustainable material/food management links.

From Susy Jones to Everyone 08:53 AM

Putting parking lots to good use! 😊

From Sakiko Isomichi to Everyone 08:54 AM

Outreach Subcommittee: reflected on the audit result and talked about doing outreach at libraries on a regular basis, making informative magnets, and collaborating with the high school's graphic class. It would be useful to get more information about the audit result to target an audience or item.

From Holden (he/him) to Everyone 08:55 AM

🙌🏻 of course, reach out anytime!

Compost/AD/Food Waste Reduction:

*holden@agricycleenergy.com (ACE)

*207-560-7446 (ACE)

Animal Feed/Brewery Sustainability

*207-712-6506 (ATG)

*holden@againstthegrainne.com (ATG)

From Sakiko Isomichi to Everyone 08:56 AM

Outreach subcommittee: one more thing - do outreach when people come to pick up parking tickets

From Deborah Galef to Everyone 08:57 AM

Stickers and permits.

From Liz McNerney to Everyone 08:57 AM

Love the textile bins

From Holden (he/him) to Everyone 08:58 AM

Super helpful Richard!

And Susy!!!

From Sakiko Isomichi to Everyone 08:58 AM

Thanks, Debby. Right, stickers and permits

From Holden (he/him) to Everyone 08:58 AM

Ugh miss Rob <3

From Helen Snively to Everyone 08:59 AM

yes I miss Rob too.. but now he's arranging tours of big recycling efforts, like our trip to UTEC.

From Holden (he/him) to Everyone 08:59 AM

Yes Meera that was AWESOME!!!

Oh super cool Helen. Would love to join one!

From Liz McNerney to Everyone 09:00 AM

Are Owen's and Meera's presentations available - as recordings or slide deck share?

From Scott MacGrath to Everyone 09:00 AM

Textile Subcommittee Takeaways (sorry, bulleted lists don't translate to Zoom): Get update on Flyer, has it gone out, and has there been any feedback? Obtain updated Helpsy bin data/metrics, to be able to market the monetary value of hosting a bin to potential new hosts. Focus on understanding why the percent of textiles in our trash went up since the audit. Get RAC involved with Buy Nothing swap events; Helen to communicate to RAC before next event. Have volunteers involved for outreach and cleanup. What other communities, besides schools, can we conduct outreach on textiles? Expand Info board at the library to include textiles. Create revised flyer that is targeted towards a general audience, not specific to schools. What other high-traffic areas can we utilize, e.g., train stations?

Develop "sandwich board"

From Debby Knight to Everyone 09:00 AM

Stickers and permits become available in early January, so it would be good to think about that at the upcoming meeting

From Meera Singh to Everyone 09:01 AM

liz I can share it with Mike to send you.

From Liz McNerney to Everyone 09:02 AM

Thank you - that would be great

From Helen Snively to Everyone 09:02 AM

everyone's welcome to these tours.. Rob sends info via a recycling listserv... we need to find a way to tell everyone.. Will ask Rob

From Deborah Galef to Everyone 09:02 AM

The tours are via MassRecycle.

From Helen Snively to Everyone 09:02 AM

that's it Debby, thanks!

From Susy Jones to Everyone 09:04 AM

Big shoutout to Deb G for expertly wrangling the notes every single month that make these updates possible.

Thank you!!

From Dawn Quirk to Everyone 09:04 AM

wow, no more FWRussell. Huge change. Congrats to STS !

From Holden (he/him) to Everyone 09:04 AM

Yes Susy 100% very grateful for Deb. Singlehandedly kept me in the loop when I couldn't be around! Thank you Deb!!!

From Scott MacGrath to Everyone 09:04 AM

Second that, Susy!

From Helen Snively to Everyone 09:05 AM

yes, STS is great. and they now have a composting facilitiy, and share their output 2x/year. The more we can get our neighbors to put out leaves etc. into yard waste the more compost STS can make for us!

From Martha Henry to Everyone 09:06 AM

Thank you, Suzy & Scott, for leading us these past few years.

From Helen Snively to Everyone 09:06 AM

Yes, thanks to Suzy and Scott!

From Maria Hottelet to Everyone 09:10 AM

So much work!! You have made a ton of impact with your diligence.

I love to see the outreach and connection to so many subset of our community...universities, small businesses....your energy is very dynamic and I admire your openness to examining each problem in the waste streams

From Holden (he/him) to Everyone 09:11 AM

Love that idea Meera!

From Martha Henry to Everyone 09:11 AM

Happy birthday, Meera!

From Maria Hottelet to Everyone 09:12 AM

My wild idea is to bring Bokashi composting to Cambridge as a way to integrate grain waste for breweries into fertilizer for farms and gardens.

From Sakiko Isomichi to Everyone 09:12 AM

I think the mobile e-waste collection is in the zero waste master plan?

From Susy Jones to Everyone 09:12 AM

Sounds wild and practical Meera!

From Maria Hottelet to Everyone 09:13 AM

My small business wecapturecarbon epicycles the beer grain into Bokashi bran. I have begun discussing it with Deb Albenberg. I hope to share it more broadly with the RAC sometime soon!

From Helen Snively to Everyone 09:15 AM

love that idea, Amy... as Debby K says, how exactly do we do it.. but great idea!

From Deborah Galef to Everyone 09:17 AM

Circuit City has long since gone out of business.

From Helen Snively to Everyone 09:17 AM

thx, Debby, I thought so.. but other similar businesses?

From Stephanie Wasiuk (she/her) to Everyone 09:17 AM

Maybe Microcenter & Best Buy?

From Helen Snively to Everyone 09:18 AM

very good points, Shirley!

From Sakiko Isomichi to Everyone 09:18 AM

cool idea, Lee

From Susy Jones to Everyone 09:18 AM

Great ideas Lee

From Maria Hottelet to Everyone 09:19 AM

I like that idea of hosting bins!!

From Amy Waltz to Everyone 09:21 AM

Love the host a bin idea! Somehow getting convenient options into more neighborhoods.

From Helen Snively to Everyone 09:22 AM

thanks Amy and Maria.. maybe we can put our heads together w RAC on how to do it?

From Meera Singh to Everyone 09:23 AM

what about partnering with an e waste co for collection lime we do with utec? just a thought

From Liz McNerney to Everyone 09:24 AM

Also love the "what your stuff disposal" should/could look like and why - as a mobile exhibit at T stations/libraries/schools (perhaps w people there for some of the hours)

From Helen Snively to Everyone 09:24 AM

Yes, Liz, I also like Lee's idea.. we could do something very simple to start, and build on it. And it would be FUN!

From Liz McNerney to Everyone 09:25 AM

because sorting does require that people "reconfigure" their interior household systems (and yes, initially, it might feel inconvenient or like a burden)

From Maria Hottelet to Everyone 09:25 AM

Michael, it is clear that your leadership skills and the dedication of your team have come together as evident by all these programs.

From Mike Orr to Everyone 09:25 AM

morr@cambridgema.gov

From Amy Waltz to Everyone 09:27 AM

Concerning expanded yard waste - earlier collection in March, if there is nice weather would be fantastic! Tons of yard waste went in the trash this year in March as we had two weeks of incredibly warm weather in March.

From Meera Singh to Everyone 09:27 AM

happy birthday Meryl!

From Helen Snively to Everyone 09:28 AM

very interesting point, Amy.. But Mike, is that possible?

From Meera Singh to Everyone 09:28 AM

Thanks Martha. my 60th!!!

From Quinten Steenhuis to Everyone 09:28 AM

Happy birthday!

From Dawn Quirk to Everyone 09:28 AM

I will be applying , Mike. Great meeting!

From Holden (he/him) to Everyone 09:28 AM

Happy birthday!!!!

From Quinten Steenhuis to Everyone 09:28 AM



From Scott MacGrath to Everyone 09:28 AM

Happy Birthday, Meera!

From Shirley E. to Everyone 09:29 AM

happy birthday, Meera! ❤️❤️❤️💎💎

From Holden (he/him) to Everyone 09:29 AM



Thank you all. Happy holidays! ho ho ho!

From Diane Roseman to Everyone 09:30 AM

Bye everyone! See you in 2023

From Shirley E. to Everyone 09:30 AM

see you all next year!